



# THE MRT BULLETIN

December 2013

Volume LV Issue VI

Kislev-Tevet 5774

Monmouth Reform Temple  
The More Torah, The More Life  
מרבה תורה, מרבה חיים

## Schedule of Services December 2013

Friday, December 6

6pm Shabbat Services

Guest Speakers:

Representative from Camp Harlam &  
Current MRT Campers

Followed by:

Post-Chanukah Party

All are invited!

Main Course, Latkes, Drinks and Desserts

Provided by Sisterhood & Brotherhood

Please bring a side dish for 8-10

Friday, December 13th

7pm Shabbat Services

Friday, December 20th

7pm Shabbat Services

Friday, December 27th

7pm Shabbat Services

**שבת שלום**  
Shabbat Shalom!

Minyan and Torah Study at 9am every  
Saturday morning in the MRT Library.



See pages 6 and 7 for  
the Post-Chanukah  
Party Flyer and Latke  
topping contest entry



There are members of our Congregation who  
are very sensitive to scents. MRT strives to  
provide a "Scent Free" environment in our  
building.

The MRT community asks that you avoid  
wearing scents of any kind when coming to  
our facility and we ask you to tell your guests who visit with us.  
Thank you for being our partner in creating a "Scent-Free"  
environment.

## Deborah "Debbie" Wasserman Schultz Being a Jewish Woman on the American Political Stage



**Sunday, 8 December  
10 am**

Debbie Wasserman Schultz is the  
U.S. Representative for Florida's 23rd  
congressional district, a member of  
the Democratic Party and the Chair  
of the Democratic National Commit-  
tee. She previously served in the  
Florida House of Representatives  
and the Florida Senate. She is the  
first Jewish congresswoman elected  
from Florida.

She has recently completed a book,  
*For the Next Generation: A Wake-Up  
Call to Solving our Nation's Problems*  
which will be available for signing  
after her presentation.

**Monmouth  
Reform Temple**

332 Hance Avenue Tinton Falls, NJ  
monmouthreformtemple.org • 732.747.9365

**92Y at MRT: Monday, December 16th at 8pm**

**Panel Discussion:**

**What does it mean for the American Jewish Community  
to be pro-Israel?**

**Jeremy Ben-Ami is the President and founder of J Street**, the pro-Israel, pro-peace lobby. He has  
nearly thirty years of experience in government, politics and communications, here and in Israel. His  
political resume includes serving as President Bill Clinton's Deputy Domestic Policy Adviser in the mid-  
1990s and as Policy Director on Howard Dean's Presidential Campaign in 2004. His father was born in Tel  
Aviv, and much of his family lives in Israel. Jeremy was named one of the Forward's 50 most influential Jews  
in America for 3 years in a row from 2007 to 2009, and The Jerusalem Post named him one of the 50 most  
influential Jews in the world in 2010 and 2012.

**David Harris has been the executive director of AJC since 1990.** Described by a top Israeli official  
as "the consummate Jewish diplomat of our time," he has been invited to speak at some of the world's  
most prestigious forums, including the World Economic Forum in Davos, and has testified before the U.S.  
Congress, the UN Human Rights Commission and the French Parliament.

**John Podhoretz is the editor of Commentary Magazine.** He also writes a column for the New York  
Post and is a contributing editor at the Weekly Standard, the magazine he co-founded in 1995. He was a  
speechwriter for President Ronald Reagan, a consultant to NBC's "The West Wing" and was a five-time  
Jeopardy champion.

**Jane Eisner is the editor-in-chief of the Jewish Daily Forward**, America's foremost national Jewish  
news organization. Online and in print, the Forward is the authoritative source of news, opinion, arts and  
culture in the Jewish world. She is the author of Taking Back the Vote: Getting American Youth Involved in  
our Democracy.

**Tickets: \$18**

## From Rabbi Bob Ourach



Probably no Jewish holiday has become as commercialized as Chanukah. The reason behind it is understandable, and yet Chanukah cannot simply be a Jewish substitute for Christmas. Every once in a while it is therefore a

good idea to remind ourselves just what the holiday is all about.

The story of Chanukah and the miracle of the cruse of oil's lasting for eight days is well known. However, this legend about the oil, while a part of our religious school education, is really probably little more than a legend. The real meaning and significance of this holiday is not so much found in the lights we kindle but in the name of the holiday itself.

Chanukah means "dedication" and to the Maccabees it meant a re-dedication of what to them was holy. It was a cleansing of the Temple. It was repairing the damage Antiochus and the Syrians had done both physically and emotionally to the Jewish people.

The brave band of guerilla fighters who followed Judah Maccabee and who were victorious against a formidable enemy believed in their cause. They lived in the hills for years before they were able to bring freedom again to their people and Jerusalem. Had they not been men of great perseverance, we might not be here today.

They were truly dedicated to a cause and a lifestyle that to them was uncompromisable. The idols of their oppressors were an abomination to them. Their dedication and faith were unmitigated by seemingly insurmountable odds.

Today in our society and community the Maccabees' quality of faith and dedication should serve as models for our own Jewish existence. Indeed, our struggle is not for freedom (although the potential erosion of our freedoms is a serious concern), but for the kind of identity and enthusiasm that they so keenly felt. We struggle against the freedom to become like everyone else. Let their sacrifice for Judaism in ages past not be lost in our generation by an overwhelming apathy. As we kindle the Chanukah lights, let us re-dedicate ourselves to personal commitment to our people and faith. If Judaism is worth preserving, the commitment can be no less than personal.

## From Cantor Gabrielle Clissold



We have had some incredibly destructive natural disasters in the last month. Between the terrible storms that destroyed the Philippines and tornados in the American Mid-West, people are suffering.

However, one does not have to look at the news to see tragedy and suffering. Everyday I look around our own community and know many have a lot going on in their lives. Very challenging events occur and these moments make us question. Often it feels hard to say, "thank you" and when bad things happen we struggle with this. There are times it feels almost impossible to be grateful. Why does Judaism say we have to say thank you? *Modim Anachnu Lach*? Why does life have to be so hard?

We have celebrated the merger of Chanukah and Thanksgiving. One holiday is Jewish and the other American but there is similarity and connection between the two observances. Chanukah (as I have written in previous articles) is a belated observance of Sukkot. The Puritans used Sukkot as the biblical basis for our American holiday of Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving has become a national holiday centered upon an amazing meal and the instruction to feel grateful.

I have hundreds of reasons to feel grateful; my family, our wonderful temple, good health, friends. I am fortunate! However I will admit that there are times I feel overwhelmed by the little things in life. Piles of papers that clutter my counters, paperwork I need to do, appointments I need to make, grocery shopping, cleaning up after the older dog (who leave us presents), children who don't excel in listening (yet), lost keys, lost phones, the lost remote, putting away laundry—we all have a long list of annoyances. In turn, everyday we see people with enormous challenges and true problems—like the people in the Philippines.

These people would give anything to get back to the small annoyances in life. To return to the time when they were drowning in clean clothes that needed to be put away but they are now orphans, homeless, there is no food, no water and no medical care. They have real problems, but when interviews are conducted—the first words out of their mouth are, "THANK YOU." Often people with the biggest challenges in life are the most generous and the first to say thank you. We could learn a lot from this incredible ability to give thanks, even when things are truly difficult.

Annoyances are not problems, yet we often make our list of frustrations into problems. The list eclipses our ability to recognize how lucky we really are to have a phone (with a missing handset), to have a television (with a missing remote). To have such a sweet old dog (who keeps me up all night). How lucky we truly are to be overwhelmed with frustrations but not real problems. Judaism teaches that everyday we must say thank you—*Modim Anachnu Lach*. We are grateful—we give thanks! There is always something you can say "thank you" about. I pray that we allow ourselves to do a better job of being grateful and thankful!

## From the President, Jay Wiesenfeld Email: [wiesenfeld@ieee.org](mailto:wiesenfeld@ieee.org)



Happy Hannukah! Happy Thanksgiving! It is an exceedingly rare convergence of the two holidays and allows us a chance for double celebrations.

Last Sunday morning (November 24), in anticipation of Hannukah, the singer/songwriter Julie Silver presented a concert to the MRT community—religious school, religious school parents, and, significantly, everyone else. I was fully entertained and thrilled by the concert and by the community experience. Julie's music was inspiring and engaging, from her personal stories to her blues-rendition of the "Dreidel song." Her concert played to all ages, from the two-year old on the bima to our older members, who were able to share recollection of their own grandmothers. Julie's concert was for everyone and had something for the entire community. The community turnout was MRT at its best.

I have been talking about community at MRT this year, and how it is reflected in and reinforced by the report of the ATID task force. As we engage with each other at MRT, we have been thinking of and using the vision, mission, and values statements as reference points. It seems to me that our community engagement at Julie Silver's concert aptly illustrates several of our mission statements:

- ***We seek to be inspired and inspire each other in a spiritual journey.*** We engage in joyful, participatory, musical and meaningful experiences.
- ***We build communities of enduring relationships that nourish commitment to each other and to Judaism.*** We are a source of strength to one another as we share the joys and challenges of our lives.
- ***We create opportunities for individuals and families to study and learn together.*** We enable members to learn about and connect with the evolving relevance of Judaism in our lives.

At the concert, we did all of these. So we are living our values.

Another of our values involves support for MRT: "Each of us is a steward of MRT's financial, physical, and human resources." One important source of financial support is the High Holy Days Appeal, which requires our stewardship and which is still ongoing. This is a mitzvah for us all. The goal this year, which we can achieve, is to have 100% participation. You will be receiving an email reminder and grateful thanks from Board members about the time that this bulletin is in press. There is no set amount to contribute, so any size contribution is important, necessary, and validates that we are all stewards of MRT's financial resources. Thank you to all who have already contributed and to those who will contribute.

Happy Hannukah and Thanksgiving. Let us be inspired by each other and our values.

### **Caring Network Meeting**

Thursday, December 5th at 3pm  
All are welcome to join this very important committee.

For information:  
Contact Helaine Rothman, Chairperson  
[helainerothman@gmail.com](mailto:helainerothman@gmail.com)

### **Lobby Tzedakah Box December 2013: Baldwin Davidson Scholarship Fund**

Baldwin Davidson Scholarship Fund subsidizes youth participation in URJ-sponsored camps, Israel programs, summer programs and NFTY events.

### **SAVE THE DATE: Wednesday, January 15, 2014 at 7pm Monmouth County Child Advocacy Center**

The Board of Trustees of the Friends of the Monmouth County Child Advocacy Center will be presenting their work to the members of Monmouth Reform Temple. The presenters will be Lynn Reich, Secretary of the Board, Assistant Prosecutor Peter Boser, Retired Police Detective Eric S. Rice, and Child Advocacy Center Social Worker Sue Rekedal, who is a member of MRT.



**Summary of November 19th Board of Trustees meeting: from Jim Halpern, MRT Recording Sec'y**

The Board would like to acknowledge positive happenings within our congregation.

Sisterhood has raised another \$300 towards kitchen renovations with the most recent Kitchen Capers. The Mitzvah Academy walked to the Chelsea House and volunteered their time with the residents. They also successfully collected over nine grocery carts full of food for FoodBank. Brotherhood's Football tailgate party was a lot of fun. Ways and Means did it again, another great outing at this month's "Hustle into Fall" event. This month, our new Visual T'Fillah service was very well attended. Also from Sisterhood, the book club met with book club members from St. Georges by the Sea Church in Rumson to discuss Khaled Hosseini's book "And the Mountains Echoed".

The Pulpit Search committee reported that of the fifteen applications for the position of Permanent Rabbi they have conducted Skype interviews with seven. Of those, two applicants have visited with us at MRT for interviews. Another two have been invited and will visit after Thanksgiving. The committee has decided to send representatives to visit the congregation of one of the candidates to see in person how the congregation interacts with the Rabbi.

The Board would like to acknowledge the honor that is being bestowed on one of our members. Leonard Teitelbaum is being presented an Honorary Life Member Award from URJ at the Biennial in San Diego in December. The Board also discussed the importance of making our congregation aware of the achievements of our members as recommended by the ATID Task Force.

The Leadership Development Task Force, also created at the recommendation of the ATID committee to help identify and train future MRT leaders is using the URJ "Yellow Booklet" L'Dor V'Dor: Creating a New Generation off Temple Leadership as a foundation of its work. The Task force is made up of 11 congregants. The Task Force has identified its goals as to develop and institutionalize 1) a "leadership training" mechanism, 2) a process for identifying and enrolling congregants into this training, and 3) a leadership progression pathway.

To date, our High Holy Day Appeal has raised over \$21,000 of our goal of \$34,000. This fundraiser, traditionally the large one of the year at MRT, is entering the final stages. Congregants should expect an email from one of your Board Members in the next several weeks to encourage those who have not yet given, to consider making this the year that we can say "100% of our congregation contributed to the Appeal".

Sisterhood and Brotherhood are co-sponsoring our Hanukah Extravaganza on December 6th. The dinner will follow our First Friday Shabbat Services and will feature a "Latke Topping Contest". Also that evening we will hear from Alex Gellman, representing Camp Harlam. Come find out about this great opportunity for your children.

From Sisterhood... \$4,787 was raised at the Breast Cancer Walk-A-Thon. Additional Kitchen Capers are being scheduled... keep an eye out for the dates. Movie night will be December 9. Additional films for March April and May as scheduled. You can find out information on the movies in our new lobby pamphlet holder, generously donated through Sisterhood. Thank you.

Rabbi Ourach wanted to thank David Levinsky and the entire Ways and Means group of volunteers for the work that they are doing. Our confirmation class is going strong with nine students participating this year. We had a great time this month at our Bagels and Blocks breakfast. On December 8th, MRT is proud to welcome US Representative Debbie Wasserman Schultz, who will be speaking on the topic "What is it Like to be a Jewish Woman on the National Political Stage".

Cantor Clissold reported that 92nd St Y has been going great! The Fleisher/Gibbs program was fantastic and everyone also loved the Alan Dershowitz interview. We are looking forward to the last one of the Fall season on December 16th which will be about Israel. On Sunday, November 24th Julie Silver will perform on our bima. Our Interfaith Thanksgiving service will be on Wednesday November 27th at 8 pm. The Mitzvah Academy schedule is out for the year. Check out all the things we do like participate in the Breast Cancer Walk, completing an enormous food collection and meeting with residents of the Chelsea. We had a successful showing of Visual T'fillah and are working on the next VT which will be on February 21st.

Jay Wiesenfeld reported that we are still looking for new Board Members (Finance, Membership and Social Action Chairs) and several new Committee Chairs. Anyone who is interested should contact Jay.

**FROM RABBI PRIESAND WITH THANKS**

Shortly after coming to Monmouth County in 1981, I became a supporter of what is now called CHHANGE, the Center for Holocaust, Human Rights and Genocide Education at Brookdale Community College. On November 21st, CHHANGE very graciously honored me for that support and for the service I have given since my retirement. It was a wonderful celebration, and I was particularly touched to be surrounded that evening by so many members of our temple family. To those who attended the dinner, served on the tribute committee, contributed in my honor, placed an ad in the journal or simply offered their congratulations, please know how much I appreciate your kindness and support.

For those not familiar with CHHANGE, I urge you to learn more about it, either by visiting its website ([www.chhange.org](http://www.chhange.org)), going to see its beautiful new facility on the Brookdale campus next to the Bankier Library, participating in one of its many educational programs, and/or volunteering to help with one of its upcoming projects. Often we wonder what we can do to help change the world. In those moments, it is best to think locally and contribute to CHHANGE.

Educate – Inspire – Empower: that is its mission. Its presence here in Monmouth County gives us an opportunity to show our children through personal example what is possible when people work together to eliminate from our midst hatred and cruelty, prejudice and bullying, how much stronger our community can be when we learn to treat each other with respect and dignity, with a desire to understand and honor each other's stories and with a commitment to learning the lessons of the past so that the future can be better for everyone.

I am proud that MRT was the first house of worship to be listed on the congregational honor roll of CHHANGE. That recognition is available to any religious institution in our community, no matter what the denomination, when at least 10% of its membership also belongs to CHHANGE. If you already belong, it will soon be time to renew your membership. If you have not yet had the opportunity to join, I hope as a new secular year approaches you will seriously consider doing so, thereby ensuring that Monmouth Reform Temple will continue to be a leader in our community, committed to making certain that all people can live here safely and securely, free to be themselves and without fear of bias or bigotry.

Like many other organizations, CHHANGE has gone "green." Taking the initiative now, and joining online ([www.chhange.org](http://www.chhange.org)), will save resources, both natural and human, and will mean that your contribution can make a difference immediately. Thank you in advance for your generosity and support – and remember: Our community needs CHHANGE, and CHHANGE needs you!

**Ways & Means, David Levinsky, Chair**

In October, the Ways and Means Committee sponsored a hugely successful RUMMAGE SALE. In November, the Ways and Means Committee put together the thoroughly enjoyable Hustle into Fall Dance. And now, we invite MRT members and their friends to our Night at the Races on February 8th at the Colts Neck Inn.

The concept of Night at the Races is simple, a great amount of fun and a fundraiser that will not break anyone's budget. This idea has been used by PTA organizations and other non-profit groups in Monmouth County. Ways and Means will show a number of horse races on large television screens that have been previously run at tracks in the United States. You will be able to bet on the races as well as have the opportunity to help with fundraising by naming a horse and/or a race. I might name a horse in the 2nd race "Charming David" and call that particular race "The Levinsky Invitational." No one involved with MRT's Night at the Races will have viewed the DVD of the races before the evening of our event.

Specific details for MRT's Night at the Races will be forth coming in our temple's weekly Tuesday Newsletters. Whether you are a frequent visitor to Monmouth Park Racetrack or unfamiliar with horseracing, MRT's Night at the Races will be an exciting evening. Winning tickets cannot be redeemed for cash, but they can be used to win special gift baskets.

Ways and Means is an especially busy committee as we continue this year's schedule and begin planning for 2014-2015. We are looking to expand and hope that temple members interested in volunteering at MRT will consider our very productive committee.

Best Wishes,  
David Levinsky, W&M Chair  
[davidlevinsky@optonline.net](mailto:davidlevinsky@optonline.net)

# MRT's FIRST FRIDAY & HANUKKAH PARTY

DECEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup>



**DINNER...ADULT SCHMOOZING...GAMES FOR THE KIDS...  
FUN FOR EVERYONE**

## **NEW CONTEST!**

**UNIQUE AND DELECTABLE TOPPINGS FOR LATKES —  
BE JUDGED ON YOUR MOST CREATIVE & YUMMIEST LATKE TOPPING —  
GO TRADITIONAL WITH APPLESauce OR SOUR CREAM  
OR  
CREATE SOMETHING SWEET AND SAVORY**

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## **POT LUCK CHICKEN & LATKE SUPPER FOLLOWS SERVICES**

**YOU BRING A POT-LUCK SIDE: FAVORITE SALAD, SIDE OR APPETIZER  
RSVP REQUESTED TO [SISTERHOOD@MONMOUTHREFORMTEMPLE.ORG](mailto:SISTERHOOD@MONMOUTHREFORMTEMPLE.ORG)  
SO WE HAVE ENOUGH FOOD AND TABLES FOR DINNER**



**5:30 - PRE-SERVICE SOCIAL HOSTED BY THE 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE**

**6PM - FIRST FRIDAY SERVICES WITH BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS,  
GUEST SPEAKERS: FROM CAMP HARLAM AND  
RECIPIENTS OF BALDWIN DAVIDSON SCHOLARSHIPS**

**7:15PM - THE DINNER AND PARTY TAKE OFF!**

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## **UNIQUE AND DELECTABLE TOPPINGS FOR LATKES**

**IS THERE SOMETHING YOU HAVE ALWAYS WANTED TO TRY ON YOUR LATKE?  
HAVE A FAMILY SECRET YOU WANT TO SHARE?...  
A NEW RECIPE YOU ARE DYING TO TRY? ...THIS IS THE OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU!**

**A PANEL OF JUDGES WILL DECIDE THE MOST UNIQUE AND DELECTABLE  
TOPPINGS FOR LATKES**

**ENTRIES TO THE UNIQUE AND DELECTABLE TOPPINGS FOR LATKES CONTEST  
MUST SUBMIT APPLICATION TO THE MRT OFFICE BY:  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 2ND!**

**THIS EVENING IS SPONSORED BY THE SISTERHOOD AND BROTHERHOOD**



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## UNIQUE AND DELECTABLE LATKE TOPPING CONTEST APPLICATION

THIS APPLICATION MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE MRT OFFICE BY:  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 2ND!

WE WILL PROVIDE THE LATKES FOR THE TOPPINGS (UNLESS YOU WANT TO BRING YOUR OWN)!  
DELIVER YOUR TOPPING ENTRY TO THE KITCHEN  
(ENOUGH FOR SAMPLING BY 5 JUDGES, MORE IF YOU WANT IT PUT OUT AT THE DINNER),  
THE "CONTEST CAPTAIN" WILL TAKE IT FROM THERE!

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NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

ORIGINS OF YOUR TOPPING:

RECIPE ORIGINS:

RECIPE (IF YOU CAN SHARE):

### From Vera Galleid, Religious School Principal



Chanukah Sameach! I hope you are all enjoying our festival of lights with the children who light up our lives. Toda rabba (thanks) to the MRT Sisterhood for giving us Chanukah treats to enjoy. We celebrated Chanukah with a special concert with Julie Silver. We lit Chanukiyot, baked Chanukah cookies, played games, learned the history, customs, rituals and many songs, did arts and crafts projects and had a good time.

We are very proud of our seventh graders who raised \$131.00 for Jewish Family and Children's Service Thanksgiving food drive by holding two bake sales. Thanks to our seventh grade families for baking delicious goodies for us to sell. They also collected food for Thanksgiving baskets for needy families. Thank you all for your generous donations.

I feel so proud to be a Jew when I hear about Israel sending help to the Philippines after Typhoon Haiyan. The IDF (Israel Defense Force) sent a delegation to provide search, rescue and medical services to the

storm ravaged Philippines. Israelis have set up a field hospital and they are treating hundreds of patients a day. Israeli doctors delivered the first baby born after the typhoon in the field hospital and his parents named him Israel to thank them. Israel has a special relationship with the Philippines because of the large number of guest workers from the Philippines living in Israel. Israelis are also experts in dealing with emergency scenarios. The Israelis are showing us how Jews respond to emergencies.

We are inspired by the Jewish value of Tikkun Olam, 'Healing the World'. The URJ has appealed to us to help by donating funds to aid the victims of Typhoon Haiyan. Our students will donate all the Tzedakkah collected in November and December to the URJ General Disaster Relief Fund. Please give generously.

Our third graders researched their Hebrew names at our PACT program. They explored their family trees and made Hebrew

name bracelets and Chanukiyot (Chanukah menorahs).

Our fourth graders will make siddur covers for their first siddurim at their PACT program in December. They will also create a Heritage Museum with Jewish family heirlooms and will be docents when our students visit the museum.

Winter is approaching. In the event that it becomes necessary to cancel school due to inclement weather, every effort will be made to ensure that school closing announcements are made by email and phone calls from the class parents.

Upcoming events:  
December 15<sup>th</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> Grade PACT program  
No school from December 22 through January 1<sup>st</sup> – Winter Break.  
School resumes on Sunday January 5<sup>th</sup> 2014.

Happy New Year!  
Vera Galleid.  
Principal

### MRTSY

MRTSY has decided to help create a change for good and focus on social action. Our first step is a sandwich sale to raise money for the typhoon victims in the Philippines. These delicious sandwiches will be available after Hebrew School on December 8th and 15th for only \$3! Next up is a pajama drive, but there will be more details about that later.

Do you want to get involved? High school sophomores and juniors can make a difference by joining the Sandy Teen Fellowship. Applications are due by December 15th and more info is available on <http://www.jewishmonmouth.org/sandy-teen-fellows/>.



**From Eleanor Rubin, Israel Committee Chairperson**

Five days in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv was an eye opener on the recent trip sponsored by Jewish Federation of Monmouth County. We were there, after a joyous (and disturbing) stay in Budapest. But that's another story.

Israel is busy repairing the world with scientific innovations that are exported world wide and now providing humanitarian assistance in the Philippines. Israel is both an extraordinarily successful experiment and , at the same time, an ordinary nation of people with their many flaws. Our Federation was on a mission to discover what segments of the population are in need and how we can provide meaningful assistance. Our days were filled with site visits to programs and projects that deal with youth at risk.

We visited an establishment called SUSAN'S HOUSE where young teenagers are referred by schools and social workers because of their inability to function successfully due to discipline problems, lack of self esteem, financial, or family stress. In this unique setting, the youth are taught life skills, responsibility and self discipline with the goal of returning to school or going into the army.

We spent time with a group called CROSSROADS which deals mostly with English speaking youth who are homeless, living on the streets, often drunk, struggling with drug addiction, violence and domestic abuse. The group aims to instill every teen with hope, motivation, and tools for a direction for a better future. A grant from Federation supports their outreach efforts.

SHUTAF is an informal education program for children and teens with special needs based in Jerusalem and operating year round. A grant from Federation supported a summer day camp experience for 14 children.

THE SUMMIT INSTITUTE, operating since 1973, is a supportive and rehabilitative program for over 850 abused and neglected children and teenagers and 600 foster families. SUMMIT was founded to serve very high risk populations in Israel. A large percentage of clients come from weak populations including new immigrants from FSU and Ethiopia as well as from Bedouin and Arab communities. Federation funding supports a recruitment and training project for foster parents who will take in at risk children.

JERUSALEM OPEN HOUSE is a leading organization of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people whose focus is on providing a comfortable social setting, promoting tolerance and mutual support for their members and advocating for LGBT rights in Israeli society.

AMUTAT NOAR, with offices in Tel Aviv, provides a service they call "Targeted Familial Interventions." The goal is to bring dysfunctional families together with their children who have often left home and are without any support. 25% of the clients are LGBT youth who have been forced to leave home because of their gender issues which are not understood and not accepted by the parents. Last year, through a series of interventions including family therapy for teenagers, their parents and a trained professional, AMUTAT NOAR was able to help 142 families. There are Centers located in Tel Aviv, Sderot, Beer Sheva and Herzliya.

A highlight of our trip was a reception for Gilad Shalit, the Israeli soldier who was kidnapped and held in captivity for five years until his release was negotiated. He spoke, hesitatingly, about his hopes and prayers during those terrible years and thanked the worldwide community of Jews who sought his freedom. As he works to recover his youth, he is attending The Hebrew University and is passionate in his support of SHALVA, the Association for Mentally and Physically Challenged Children in Israel.

While the world focuses on Israeli accomplishments and her existential threats, ordinary Israelis live their lives, many in dire conditions , needing much help which is provided by some extraordinary humanitarian folks who establish social services aimed at rehabilitating, to the best of their ability, the Israeli youth at risk. We are proud to be in a position to add our support through Federation.

## SISTERHOOD



Last month we wrote about Sisterhood's successful programs for the women of MRT, especially during this past year. This month, as we look forward to beginning 2014, we are very proud to talk about what Sisterhood does for our **entire temple community** throughout the year!

Our Chanukah Extravaganza, co-sponsored with Brotherhood, has brought 150-175 of us together each year for laughter, good food, children's activities and celebration. This year, join us on First Friday December 6th for a special night with the pre-service social hosted by the 6<sup>th</sup> grade class, 6pm services with birthday blessings, a guest from Camp Harlam, and an explanation of the Baldwin Davidson Fund. Then, the Festivities begin with a pot luck dinner (you provide the sides), children's crafts and games, our new Contest for the best topping for Latkes. Dinner RSVPs are requested to [sisterhood@monmouthreformtemple.org](mailto:sisterhood@monmouthreformtemple.org) and contest applications are due December 2<sup>nd</sup> to the temple office. Our successful Rosh Hashanah applecake/babka/honey fundraiser makes this possible. (See pages 6&7 for the flyer and application.)

Our Book Club continues to thrive having just come off our sensational November joint event with St. Georges. Our next book club event is a Movie night on Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup>. We are watching the **Great Gatsby** w/ Robert Redford. This is open to the entire MRT Adult community – Bring Pot Luck to share and wear something from the Jazz Era.

When you come into MRT, please notice the beautiful new pamphlet holder across from the office donated by sisterhood containing lots of up-to-date information for everyone.

Did you know that Sisterhood attempts to send greetings to any temple member who is ill, celebrating a mitzvah or suffered a loss? Please email sisterhood if you know of someone who is ill or in the hospital, is celebrating a special event or, has suffered a loss.

Our MRT team who participated in the Breast Cancer walk raised almost \$4800 for this excellent cause. Thanks to so many in our temple community for joining our team or walking for the cause!!!

We were pleased to help sponsor the Julie Silver concert on November 24 – a wonderful event for everyone! In addition to supporting temple wide programs, our fundraising efforts make it possible for us to give college scholarships to high school seniors who demonstrate a high level of commitment to our temple. This past year three very deserving students were recipients!

Our temple kitchen needs a major overhaul and our Kitchen Capers events are raising money to make this possible. So far, we have held two successful events – Cool Desserts and Belly Dancing! Please support these fun events – there is something for everyone. Watch for Pilates with Nadine, Working in the Cloud with Linda and Rita, and Fondue Night with Maxine and Cheryl!

Beginning in March, Sisterhood and the MRT library will be sponsoring a unique women's film series selected by our own Linda Murray. These events will be open to the community. Watch for details in the next bulletin! As you can see, Sisterhood is a very dedicated and energetic organization. If there are any women who would still like to join, please let us know.

We hope you enjoy the holiday season. We look forward to 2014 with excitement and pride, and hope you will join us!

Jill Austin and Cheryl Gaudette

## BROTHERHOOD



Hello I hope you enjoyed your Thanksgiving holiday. This is not the only the time of season we share special moments with friends and family but it is also the time of year organizations ask for money. I'm sure you are inundated with mail from all over the world asking for money. Well not to be outdone by everyone else this is why we could use your support. Last month, we held a very successful Brotherhood Beerfest, open at no charge to the entire congregation. More than 60 congregants - young and old, new and long-time members - enjoyed beer, food, and good company on a Saturday evening.

Brotherhood contributions enable us to provide services to Monmouth Reform Temple and hold events like this. For the second year, we are considering every male congregant a member of Brotherhood AUTOMATICALLY. Rather than require dues payment of a fixed amount just to call you a member, we are instead saying you can contribute what you want. That said, without donations, we will be unable to continue providing services and programs to Monmouth Reform Temple, including:

- We provide ushers for the High Holy services.
- We provide the materials for and build the Sukkah and sponsor Sukkot dinner.
- We sponsored the extremely successful Beatlemania show.
- We host a tailgate football watch party with food.
- We host the Chanukah dinner with the Sisterhood.
- We provide excellent speakers for many events.
- We host a Mother's Day breakfast each year with love.
- We have a co-ed softball team.
- We make monetary donations to charities
- We provide gifts for the B'nai Mitzvah's and the Confirmands.
- We work with other men's clubs to bring you even more great events.
- We offer a poker night approximately twice a month.

You might wonder why we don't collect dues and ask for donations. It's because we want broader attendance at our functions. We found many of the newer members of the congregation did not know what the Brotherhood does. We feel once you know what we do, you will want to participate.

If this letter has moved you to provide financial support to the Brotherhood please send your donation to the Brotherhood at Monmouth Reform Temple 332 Hance Ave. Tinton Falls N.J. 07724. Please mention Brotherhood somewhere on the donation.

**Sisterhood Book Club presents:**

### **The Movie: The Great Gatsby**

**Monday, December 9th at 7pm**

**In the MRT Social Hall**

**Bring something to share for the Pot Luck Dinner**

**Come dressed for the Jazz Era**

**Open to everyone!**

**THE CONGREGATION WISHES MAZEL TOV TO:**

- Stu and Cora Tuchband on the Bat Mitzvah of their granddaughter Skylar, on November 9, 2013

**THE CONGREGATION EXTENDS CONDOLENCES TO:**

- David and Linda Murray on the loss of his mother, Anna Murray
- Marcia Horn on the loss of her husband, Jeff Horn
- Jay and Monica Feigus on the loss of his mother, Joan Feigus
- Brad and Barbara Feigus on the loss of his mother, Joan Feigus

The Congregation mourns  
the loss of  
**Jeff Horn**



May His Memory be a  
Blessing

The Congregation mourns  
the loss of  
**Joan Feigus**



May Her Memory be a  
Blessing



*At MRT, loved ones are memorialized with Kaddish at the Shabbat service on or following their Yahrtzeit. If you would like someone's name read on a different Shabbat please contact the office or see the Rabbi just prior to services.*

**December Yahrtzeits (date based on when they occur)**

**Names to be Read on Friday, December 6th (Services at 6pm)**

\*Gussie Avrin, \*Abba Mayer Beerman, Roger Kenneth Berman, \*Betty Bermann, \*Isidore Bermann, \*Flora Braunstein, \*Benjamin Bregmann, Ted Choate, Leda Cohan, \*Sol Cohen, Joseph Dow, Lawrence Friedman, Gertrude T. Gelber, Harry Haback, Pearl Katz, \*Harry Kohn, \*Bernard Levy, David Litwin, \*Sol Mandel, Sylvia Mink, Lester Morris, Dr. Harvey Mozer, Brian Murray, Clara Reiss, James Harry Ryterband, \*Hilda D. Salomon, \*Jay Schulman, \*Ruth Silverberg, Aaron Smitheimer, \*Dr. Irma Steisel, Ruth Welt, Joel Wiesenfeld, Gertrude Wolf, Ruth Kahn Wolff

**Names to be Read on Friday, December 13th (Services at 7pm)**

Lena Attias, George Brandwene, \*Helen Davis, Florence Elias, \*Abraham Glasser, Abraham Golden, Robert Gordon, Melissa Haback, \*Louis E. Jacobson, Herbert Leifman, Joseph Levinsky, Martha Meurer, Ruth Pearlman, Harry Resnick, Caryl Rubin, \*Pearl Seitz, \*Celia Spring, Patricia Ann Turner, Morris Weinstein

**Names to be Read on Friday, December 20th (Services at 7pm)**

Emanuel Barouch, Raymond Becker, Billie Bernstein, Dorothy Davis, Harry Field, Evelyn Garfield, \*George Glasser, Molly Gurevitz, Harry Katz, Sal Katz, \*Hyman Klein, \*Richard Klein, Edward Klein, Harry Kohn, \*David Lane, Jeff Lipson, \*Lora G. Miller, \*Nettie Morse, Clara Newman, Irving Priesand, \*Ida Reisner, Betty Rivkin, \*Bette Halpern Schmelzle, \*Sylvia Shertzer, \*Lois Baker Smith, \*Beth Tanzman, \*Herbert Tanzman, Bernice Urman, Ann Weissman

**Names to be Read on Friday, December 27th (Services at 7pm)**

Aaron J. Abrams, \*Samuel Avrin, Aaron Bernstein, \*Goldie Bialy, Selma Burdas, \*Leonard Gettelson, \*Edith R. Ginzburg, Elizabeth Heidema, Collette Katz, \*Esther Komar, \*Joseph Lansky, \*Abraham W. Miller, Earl H. Priesand, \*Hyman Reisner, Lillian Rifkin, Jennie Rosenweig, Howard Semer, Gertrude Snyder, Jessie Weiss, Herman Wilk

\*Indicates that a Memorial Plaque is hanging in the MRT sanctuary ensuring that their yahrtzeit will be observed in perpetuity. Plaques can be purchased by contacting the MRT office. They are hung on the side walls of the sanctuary. Spaces are available on both walls. Cost per plaque is \$400.



**The Congregation Acknowledges with Thanks the Following Contributions:****Adult Ed Fund****In Memory Of:**

Max Singer, Anna Singer, Harry  
Braunstein

Lila Singer

**RSJP Endowment Fund**

Jeffrey Willard and Steve Mahan

**Baldwin Davidson Scholarship Fund****In Memory Of:**

Mildred Abis, Morris Berg  
Arlene and Jim Berg

**General Fund****In Honor Of:**

Lila Singer  
Joseph Singer

**Sisterhood Scholarship Fund****In Memory Of:**

Lloyd Shapiro  
Maxine and Alan Klatsky  
Charles Cooper  
Maxine and Alan Klatsky  
Lila Fishbein  
Maxine and Alan Klatsky  
Carol Tarabour  
Maxine and Alan Klatsky

**Flower Fund****In Memory Of:**

Samuel Kramer  
Linda and Mark Kroll  
Calmon Sperling  
Rita and David Sperling  
Sandy Brandwene, George Weinberg  
Bernard Brandwene  
Mortimer Brandwene  
Bernard Brandwene  
Martha Brandwene

**Caring Network Fund****In Memory Of:**

Karen Ciorciari  
Judy and Phil Ciorciari

**Homeless Fund****In Honor Of:**

Micki and Brian Pollack's 50th  
Anniversary  
Joyce and John Christie

**Mazon Fund****In Honor Of:**

Stu and Cora Tuchband on their  
grandchildren Jacob and Sklyar's B'nai  
Mitzvahs  
Richard and Barbara Gitlin

**Ways & Means Fund****In Honor Of:**

Jane Graver  
Doreen Laperdon-Addison &  
Lonnie Addison

**Cantor's Fund**

Christine Thomas Joskowitz and Ian  
Joskowitz

**In Memory Of:**

Charles Cooper  
Judy Cooper

**In Honor Of:**

Cora and Stu Tuchband on the Bat Mitzvah  
of their granddaughter Skylar  
Sheila and Jim Leavitt  
Rabbi Sally J. Priesand being honored by  
CHHANGE  
Sheila and Jim Leavitt

**Rabbi's Discretionary Fund****In Memory Of:**

Charles Cooper  
Judy Cooper

**In Honor of:**

Lynn Shapiro for Chanukah  
David Shapiro

**Oneg Fund****In Memory Of:**

David Spellman  
Ellen and Donald Byck  
Gertrude Honig  
Celia Honig  
Robert Goodman, David Marks  
Ellie Goodman  
Charles P. Gelber, Gertrude T. Gelber  
Susan and Roy Gelber

**Disaster Relief Funds**

When disaster strikes, Reform Jews trust the Union for Reform Judaism to distribute donated funds to agencies that are most effectively helping those in need. The Union retains no funds from relief efforts, with the exception of direct costs, such as credit card fees. Recent relief efforts have included hurricanes, storms and wildfires in North America, Haiti, Israel Emergency and Sudan.

The URJ's General Disaster Relief Fund enables the URJ to respond quickly and swiftly to all types of disasters as needed.

For more information and to donate online: <http://urj.org/socialaction/issues/relief/>

# Mitzvah Academy



The Mitzvah Academy, MRT's 8th and 9th graders with their advisors Cantor Clissold and Emily Halpern, collected food for the Food Bank of Monmouth County.

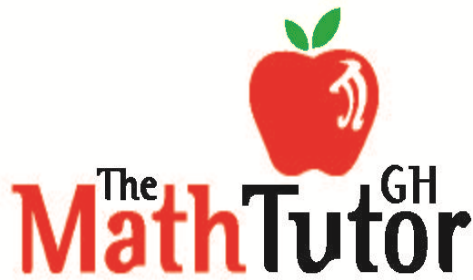
Cantor dropped off an entire car filled with groceries to the Food Bank.

Great job!

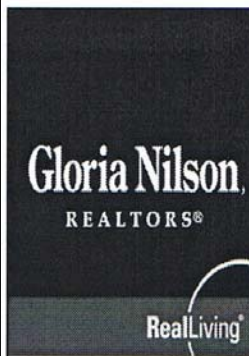
←  
Mitzvah Academy visits The Chelsea on a Sunday morning and plays dreidl and exercises with the elders.







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References Aplenty

### MRT STAFF

**Rabbi Robert Ourach**  
[rabbi@monmouthreformtemple.org](mailto:rabbi@monmouthreformtemple.org)

**Cantor Gabrielle Clissold**  
[cantorclissold@monmouthreformtemple.org](mailto:cantorclissold@monmouthreformtemple.org)

**Rabbi Emerita Sally J. Priesand**  
[rsjp@optonline.net](mailto:rsjp@optonline.net)

**Religious School Principal Vera Galleid**  
[rsprincipal@monmouthreformtemple.org](mailto:rsprincipal@monmouthreformtemple.org)

**Office Administrator Mindy Gorowitz**  
[mindy@monmouthreformtemple.org](mailto:mindy@monmouthreformtemple.org)

**Synagogue Operations Helene Messer**  
[helene@monmouthreformtemple.org](mailto:helene@monmouthreformtemple.org)

### MRT Executive Board

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[wiesenfeld@ieeee.org](mailto:wiesenfeld@ieeee.org)

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Second Vice Pres. Marjorie Wold  
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Fourth Vice Pres. Stu Tuchband  
Treasurer Jay Feigus  
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Immed. Past Pres. Mark Gruensfelder

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Faith Leifman  
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### Auxiliaries

Sisterhood Co-Presidents:  
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Cheryl Gaudette  
Brotherhood President: Mitch Baum  
MRTSY President: Sara Hayet

[jilltennis@aol.com](mailto:jilltennis@aol.com)  
[cbgaudette@gmail.com](mailto:cbgaudette@gmail.com)  
[mrt.brothers1@gmail.com](mailto:mrt.brothers1@gmail.com)  
[srhayet@gmail.com](mailto:srhayet@gmail.com)

**MRT Vision, Mission, Values (approved at August 20th Board Meeting)*****Vision***

OPEN DOORS -- OPEN MINDS

*Monmouth Reform Temple – Our Spiritual Community-Where We Nurture Meaning in Our Lives*

***Mission***

- ***We are an inclusive community where creativity and openness to new ideas harmonize with the traditions of Reform Judaism.*** For all ages we provide multiple pathways to spiritual growth and lifelong learning.
- ***We seek to be inspired and to inspire each other in a spiritual journey.*** We engage in joyful, participatory, musical and meaningful experiences.
- ***We build communities of enduring relationships that nourish commitment to each other and to Judaism.*** We are a source of strength to one another as we share the joys and challenges of our lives.
- ***By speaking out and taking action, we seek to improve the quality of human existence and help heal our world.*** As we work together we create a Jewish presence in the community.
- ***We create opportunities for individuals and families to study and learn together.*** We enable members to learn about and connect with the evolving relevance of Judaism in our lives.
- ***We affirm our continuing support of Israel.*** We understand that to be a Jew is to be a part of the extended Jewish family.
- ***Each of us is a steward of MRT's financial, physical and human resources.*** This includes our temple's good name.

***Values***

***In all aspects of temple life - spiritual, educational and social – these values are our common bond and support our common effort:***

***Spirituality***

We are guided by Torah as we strive to live ethical lives. In search of spiritual and intellectual nourishment, we become aware of a sense of wonder, amazement and being in God's presence. Our deeds reflect our gratitude for the gift of life and its blessings.

***Respect***

In all our relationships we treat each other in a way that preserves individual dignity and welcomes new ideas. Courtesy, directness, and openness to others will guide our interactions and demonstrate our trustworthiness.

***Inclusiveness***

We welcome all who choose to embrace Judaism in their lives and homes, regardless of background. As builders of community, we care about each other in all our diversity.

***Lifelong Learning***

MRT is a center of life-long learning, where we search for meaning, we study, we question, and we seek the sacred. Learning enables us all to progress from knowledge to commitment to action.

***Engagement***

In partnership with clergy and staff, we count on our members to contribute their talents, resources and energy to ensure the vitality of MRT's community. We depend on our members to be informed and participate in decision-making.



# December 2013

For the most up-to-date information: [www.monmouthreformtemple.org/calendar](http://www.monmouthreformtemple.org/calendar)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> <b>5th Chanukah Candle</b> <b>NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL</b> 2pm MRTSY Belated Chanukah Bash	<b>2</b> <b>6th Chanukah Candle</b> 7:30pm Brotherhood	<b>3</b> <b>7th Chanukah Candle</b> 7:30pm Religious Ed	<b>4</b> <b>8th Chanukah Candle</b> 4pm Religious School	<b>5</b> 7:30pm Intro to Judaism	<b>6</b> 5:30pm 6th grade pre-oneg 6pm Shabbat Services w/Shir Chadash 7pm Sis/Bro Post-Chanukah Bash	<b>7</b> 9am Shabbat Services & Torah Study
<b>8</b> 9:30am Rel School 9:30am Adult Heb 9:30am Bag & Blox 10am Debbie Wasserman Schultz 12pm Jr. Youth	<b>9</b> 7pm Sisterhood Movie Great Gatsby and Pot Luck	<b>10</b> 9:45am Study Group 7pm Orchid Society 7:30pm Exec Comm	<b>11</b> 4pm Religious School 6:30pm Ritual Meeting	<b>12</b> 7:30pm Intro to Judaism	<b>13</b> 10:30am Shabbat @ Kensington 2:15pm Shabbat @ Brighton 7pm Shabbat Services	<b>14</b> 9am Shabbat Services & Torah Study
<b>15</b> 9:30am Rel School 9:30am 4th Grade PACT 9:30am Adult Hebrew	<b>16</b> 8:15pm <b>92Y Panel on Israel: What does it mean for the Amer Jewish community to be Pro-Israel?</b>	<b>17</b> 9:45am Study Group 7:15pm Board of Trustees meeting	<b>18</b> 4pm Religious School	<b>19</b> 7:30pm Intro to Judaism	<b>20</b> 7pm Shabbat Services	<b>21</b> 9am Shabbat Services & Torah Study
<b>22</b> <b>NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL</b>	<b>23</b> Office Closing 1pm	<b>24</b> Office Closing 1pm	<b>25</b> Office Closed  <b>NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL</b>	<b>26</b> Office Closing 1pm	<b>27</b> Office Closing 1pm 7pm Shabbat Services	<b>28</b> 9am Shabbat Services & Torah Study
<b>29</b> <b>NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL</b>	<b>30</b> Office Closing 1pm	<b>31</b> Office Closing 1pm				



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## Here is some of what's coming up in 2014...

Ways and Means "Night at the Races"  
At the Colts Neck Inn  
Saturday, February 8th

Visual T'filah  
Friday, February 21st at 7pm  
Friday, March 21st at 7pm  
Friday, June 20th at 7pm

Sisterhood Hamantaschen Baking  
March 2, 3

Family Megillah Reading  
Purim Shpiel and Adult Party  
March 15

Purim Carnival  
March 16

Ways and Means presents: Jersey Boys  
Saturday, May 31st

### Adult Ed Programs:

The Spring Season of 92Y Broadcasts  
To be announced

Rabbi Stephen Pearce  
Friday-Sunday  
March 28th - 30th

Rabbi Karyn Kedar  
Saturday-Sunday  
April 5th and 6th

### **...But for now**

*Happy Thanksgiving!*  
*Happy Chanukah!*  
*The MRT Board, Clergy and Staff*